

Saint Mary's Catholic College

South Burnett



NEWSLETTER

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38/2012

28th November 2012

realise your dignity

From the Principal

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Saint Mary's,

This Sunday, we move into the season of Advent. Advent is about joyful waiting. During Advent we take the time to prepare for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. As a school community, we will have a number of celebrations during Advent including our Carols Evening and End of School Liturgy. Parents and carers are encouraged to join us for these celebrations.

School will finish at 12.30 on Friday, December 7th, following our whole school liturgy. Buses will run at normal times. Students who are unable to get home at this time will be supervised. If you will need your child supervised, please contact the office ASAP to arrange.

I would like to congratulate **Eline Beijens who was named as the top distance education student for Ancient History**. Eline is studying through the Brisbane School of Distance Education which serves students from across the state, nation and from around the world.

I would like to thank all who took part in the recent Parent and Carer survey. About **a quarter of our families responded to our survey**. Our yearly review has gathered information from both staff and parents. There is too much data to present everything, so I have just given overall percentages and some major learnings for our community below:

Review components	Percentage of parents / carers who said:	Some important learnings for Saint Mary's
Component 1.4 Social Action and Justice	90.2% - Excellent, Very Good or Good	
Component 2.1: Vision for Learning	78% - Excellent, Very Good or Good	We need to better communicate our Vision of Learning to our parents (25% said this was satisfactory only for this particular question)
Component 2.4 Assessment of Student Learning	65.5% - Excellent, Very Good or Good	Staff need to improve their feedback to students on assessments. Parents and students need to be made aware of assessment dates and requirements. (1/3 rd said this was either satisfactory or unsatisfactory)
Component 3.1 Learning Support	77.7% - Excellent, Very Good or Good	
Component 3.1 Student Wellbeing and Pastoral Care	80.3% - Excellent, Very Good or Good	
Component 3.5 - Gifted Education	84.2% - Excellent, Very Good or Good	
Component 7.4 Budgeting and Finance	95.1% - Excellent, Very Good or Good	

As a staff, we are continually striving to improve the quality of our performance. We will take on board the issues raised by parents and work hard to improve on these aspects.

Yours in Christ

M. Nayler
Mr Michael Nayler
Principal

Dates to Remember

- Friday, 30th November**
•Year 10 and 11 Last Day
- Tuesday, 4th December**
•Orientation Day - New Year 8 students and Prep Day 2
- Thursday, 6th December**
•Carols Night
- Friday, 7th December**
•Prep - Year 11 Reports Distributed
•End of Year Mass
- Wednesday, 30th January**
•Term One commences for 2013

All Important Dates are now on our College website:
www.saintmarys.qld.edu.au

From the Deputy

Lockers

Year 10 lockers must be cleaned out and locks removed by this Friday, 30th November.

Years 6-9 must have all lockers cleaned out and locks removed by next Wednesday, 5th December.

Any lockers with locks remaining at this time will have them removed and items will be thrown in the bin.

Lockers for 2013 will be allocated in Week 2 of Term 1.

No Access

Parents are reminded that students are to be dropped off out the front of the school or in the bottom carpark (cnr Carinya and Kent Sts). There is no access to the College through the driveway near the Music Room. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Last day of School

8.45 - 8.55	Homeroom
8.55 - 10.30	Clean up classrooms
10.30 - 10.50	Move to Mary Knoll Centre
11-12.15	End of Year College Liturgy
12.30	Dismissal from homeroom with report cards

Supervision will be provided at the College for any students who catch after school buses. These students are to move to the Chapel for supervision until collected by parents or going home on buses at 2.55pm.

God bless

Mr Sean Erwin

Deputy Principal

APRE News

Final College / Parish Mass

Last Sunday was the final College led Parish Mass for 2013. We had 13 students involved and there were quite a few more that turned up with their families.

The introduction was read by Thomas Dolzan, Bridget McDonald and Grace McFarlane did the two readings, Tessa Buzzo and Katie Robertson read the prayers of the faithful, Olivia Davis and Sammi Rix took up the offertory, Du and Danh Pham were the altar servers and parishioners were welcomed by Molly and Angus McDonald and Abby and Sam Perrett. Thanks to all these volunteers and the many others who have taken up a small part in these monthly masses throughout the year.

We often hear the catch cry, 'there are not enough young people going to mass'. I have even heard myself saying it, so what's the answer? It can't come from schools but we can certainly provide opportunities that support it. Ultimately the decision to practice one's faith rests with the individual; however the partnership between parents and the school is crucial. I hope we can encourage even more students next year to be involved. Mr Scanlan and I are keen to start a musical liturgy committee so more and more students can be involved, not just in playing music, but in singing and through movement, perhaps even a dramatised gospel.

God bless

Mr Martin Perrett

APRE

Tuckshop News

As we are coming to a close for 2012 we are starting to run our stock low for the school holiday period. We will try to accommodate all orders that come into the tuckshop between now and the close of school.

Kind Regards

Mrs Michelle Davis

Tuckshop Convenor

Library News

Lexile Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have received Lexile Awards!

Blue Award (3 Books) - Paige Parsons

Red Award (5 Books) - Thomas Kelly,

Lindsay Kennedy and Fiona McNamara

Bronze Award (10 Books) - Tane Pini,

Joshua Gronbach, Sophie Weier, Ryan

Maudsley, Sammi Rix, Khyla Thompson,

Nikita Pini, Oliver Hams, Thomas Kelly

Silver Books (25 Books) - Joshua Gronbach,

Kaitlin Ritchie, Caitlin Lang, Madison

Crane, Lachlan Dolzan

Gold Award (50 Books) - Bridget

McDonald

Premiers Reading Challenge

Achievements

Yesterday, on assembly I rewarded the effort of P-6 students with great pride. My challenge to them in Term 2 was for classes to attain 100% to meet the Premiers Reading Challenge so that they could receive a class prize from the library. I was thrilled to announce that **every class attained 100%**! Every student received a beautiful certificate signed by the Premier. Well done, students and teachers for an enormous effort.

Year 8 Orientation Day – 4th December

An orientation day event for Year 8s in 2013 has been planned for Tuesday, 4th December. This will include new Year 8s to the college in 2013 as well as our present Year 7s. The day will provide opportunities for students to socialise and meet some of their new teachers. Students will participate in five activities for the day including PE, Science, Workshop, Art and Drama in various specialist rooms. Detailed information via a letter was sent home. Please remind students to wear sun safe clothing, sunscreen and bring a water bottle and hat. Lunch will be provided.

Year 6 and 7 Rite of Passage Ceremony

The college will host its first Rite of Passage ceremony for our Year 6s and 7s on Monday the 3rd December at 6pm-7.30pm. This event will commemorate students' transition from one phase of learning into another by celebrating an important milestone within their schooling i.e. Year 6 moving into a new Teaching and Learning Community (TLC) and Year 7 moving into secondary education. An invitation has been posted home to families. Please note that the dress code for students is **smart casual. Please bring a plate to share at the end.**

Kind regards,

Mrs Melanie Burr

Teacher-Librarian/7-9 Curriculum Coordinator



Counsellor News

Forgiveness

Through some conversations since last week's article on self-acceptance the need for self-forgiveness has been highlighted as an area that we often neglect as the first step in the gradual process of self-acceptance.

"If we think only of ourselves, forget about other people, then our minds occupy a very small area. Inside that small area, even tiny problems appear very big. But the moment you develop a sense of concern for others, you realise that, just like ourselves, they also want happiness; they also want satisfaction. When you have this sense of concern, your mind automatically widens. At this point, your own problems, even big problems, will not be so significant. The result? Big increase in peace of mind. So, if you think only of yourself, only your own happiness, the result is actually less happiness. You get more anxiety, more fear."

*Dalai Lama XIV,
The Wisdom of Forgiveness*

Kind regards,
Mr Graham Turnbull
Counsellor

Christmas Appeal

Year 6 is running a Christmas Appeal to give food to the needy. Please bring along non-perishable goods to the College office and they will be collected every Wednesday.

Thank you for your continued support

Year 6 students

Accommodation Required

We have a student who is looking for accommodation for the period of 2nd December to 27th January while her mother is in New Zealand.

If you are able to offer any assistance to this family can you please contact the College Office on 4162 2011.

Personalised Label Drive

Support this P & F Fundraiser by ordering your named stickers, iron-on and other personalised gear for next year's Back to School!



All you need to do is go the web site www.FDR804.brightstarkids.com.au and start ordering. You must go through this link for the money to go to Saint Mary's! With this link Bright Star Kids Labels will donate 15% of all sales back to the school! Their range includes: name Labels, Bags, Wall Art and Bag Tags! So get shopping! See Bron Langford-Martoo for any more information.



Uniform Shop News

A big welcome to Amanda Jensen, the new Uniform Shop Convener.

Please look out for your information pack going home with your report cards for Uniform Shop opening hours for purchases for the new school year.



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Carols Night

Prep to Year Six

Thursday, 6th December

5pm BBQ (\$2 for sausage on bread)

6pm Carols

Mary Knoll Centre

Items that will be for sale are:

Drinks, Ice-Cream, Sorbet, Glow Sticks
and Flicker Candles

If families would like to donate non-perishable food items for St Vincent de Paul please bring them along.



